

Drug users hit 3.4 M as of July, says PNP

By Heriberto Pineda

THE PHILIPPINE National Police has estimated that there were 3.4 million drug users in the Philippines as of July, almost double the 1.8 million figure a month before.

There are 211 major drug gangs in the country which earn more than \$1 billion a year from the illegal trade and experts say that about one-fourth of the country's elected officials have one way or another profited from involvement in the drug trade.

Ninety percent of business firms filed in the courts are drug-related and 60 percent of prison inmates are in jail for drug-related crimes.

Drug prevalence among women almost tripled from one percent in 1974 to 3.3 percent in 2003.

At an early age

Now, a growing number of Filipino youths, including young children, are using various drugs at an early age, with drug use almost doubling from 10.7 percent in 1994 to 19.7 percent in 2003.

These were just some of the data presented at the one-day National Conference on Children in Drugs that ended on Thursday.

The conference, which included representatives from government, non-governmental organizations and research institutions, was called to draw up plans to protect children against drug abuse and eliminate the involvement of the youth in the production, sale and trafficking of drugs.

One of the studies that was presented at the conference said that Filipino children are being introduced to drug use by people close to them, like friends, peers, family members and neighbors who are engaged in drug use, sales and trafficking.

Fear influence

"While peer influence is a major factor in children being introduced into the drug use, work, children are easily used as mules by their parents or other adults... Young children are starting to become players in the drug trade, delivering drugs to relatives and friends," said the study which was co-

authored by a team headed by Emma Ponce of the Ateneo de Manila University's sociology department.

The study conducted over a span of two years, focused on several urban poor landscapes in Manila, Quezon City, Marikina and Pasig.

In 1999, the team found that child users were predominantly male, from 15 to 17 years old.

As young as 12

But in 2003, children as young as 12 were being introduced to drugs and medicines, including hydrochloride, or Ritalin, to make them more popular drugs.

In Marikina, the study said that the average age of child users was 15 and that most were male.

"Thirty-six percent of children are involved with drugs and trafficking, coming mainly from family, followed by peers and neighbors," the study said.

In Pasig, the average age of children users was 14 and that 89 percent of the children in the community were familiar with drugs.

Most popular drug

But in Pasig, the most popular drug was highly addictive 99 percent of the children in the community were familiar with drugs.

The study also said that in three communities, the children were being utilized as drug pushers and traffickers.

The study was one of "regional assessments" under the International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC), a commitment which concluded that a high proportion of children in urban communities in Manila and Cebu were highly "at risk" to drugs.

In 2002, IPEC initiated research projects in the Philippines and Thailand to conduct studies on drug use and several non-governmental organizations.

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GMA sets China state visit

INCIDENT Managap-
p-
China on Sept. 2-3,
Malacanan an-
announced yesterday

The President's
trip to Beijing was el-
evated from a work-
ing visit to a state vi-
sit, according to Presi-
dential spokesman
Ignacio Araya.

"The invitation
was from the govern-
ment of China to see
classified it as a state
visit," he explained.
In a state visit, the
host country should
cover the expenses of
the visiting head of
state.

While in Beijing,
Ma Arroyo will at-
tend a meeting of
parliamentarians

and political parties.

"She's going there
in her capacity as
head of her party
which is the Lakas-

CMD-Kampi," Arroyo
said.

This would be Ma
Arroyo's first foreign

trip since winning a
full term in the May
10 presidential elec-
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Hold off increases in prices of goods, GMA asks traders

By John Laking-Jacobson

MANILA (Inquirer) — Increase in consumer goods.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has appealed to traders to hold off increases in the prices of consumer goods while the administration looks for ways to reduce the impact of inflation on the poor.

She stressed appeals to Filipino traders and business leaders to restrain prices during a dialogue and lunch with the members of the Association of Southern Asian Nations Business Advisory Council held at the Malacañan Palace.

She noted that Asian governments were trying to hold the inflation rate down, but in the region is the loss of global and national credit such as the "independent" status in the

world of credit.

"When increasing this in the Philippines, Asian is experiencing this. The world is experiencing this. The Asian region is around the clock in a constant drive," he Arroyo said. Southern leaders from Japan and 14 Asian countries.

"We call on all players in the supply and distribution chain of goods and services—every of whom are large—to hold off all increases," she said. "But if this is inevitable, to hold off the increase in inflation, to maintain a low rate, while the government approach only into for the poor affected sector."

She added: "The concerned agencies are monitoring their prices later against inflation, and we thank the manufacturers and traders who are ensuring that we are keeping inflation low."

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FUNCTION ROOM A
Saturday, August 14, 2004
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Focus on "Philippine Book Industry in Early 21st Century Family Industry" by Philippine Book Industry Association in cooperation with the Planning Commission (Philippine)

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Translation Seminar
by Philippine Bible Society

3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
National Book Awards by Manila Critics Circle

FUNCTION ROOM B
Saturday, August 14, 2004
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

National Book Awards
Sponsored by Philippine Book Industry Association, Inc.

ACTIVITY AREA 1

Aug 14, 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Sponsored by Manila Publishers Association
3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Sponsored by Manila Publishers Association

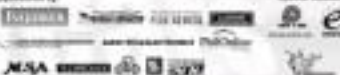
ACTIVITY AREA 2

Aug 14, 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Sponsored by Manila Publishers Association
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Sponsored by Manila Publishers Association
3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Sponsored by Manila Publishers Association

ACTIVITY AREA 3

Aug 14, 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Sponsored by Manila Publishers Association
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Archbishops gather in Tarlac for Eucharistic, Marian rites

THE CATHOLIC bishops and bishops will gather in Tarlac City on Sunday to celebrate the Eucharistic and Marian Year as well as pray for peace, national unity and renewal.

This is the first time in the history of the Catholic Church that the bishops are simultaneously celebrating the Eucharistic and Marian Year.

Tarlac Bishops' Conference I General and the first celebration was in recognition of the Church's two pillars: the Eucharist and the Virgin Mary.

"It signifies because Pope John Paul II called her Virgin Mary the woman of the Eucharist, and the Eucharist, which is the Church, was born by the Virgin Mary. There are no other sources of the two roots," he said in a plenary session.

He also prayed that the celebration be the first step in the process of the Church's renewal.

Tomorrow is the last day of the 4th Assembly of the Bishops of the Philippines.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines declared a Eucharistic and Marian Year this year when the international celebration of the Eucharistic Year coincides with the 50th anniversary of the celebration of the Marian Year.

This year, the Pope declared the celebration of the Eucharistic Year of the Eucharist starting October 2004.

The UNCT decided to hold its 14th year to celebrate the Marian Year on Aug. 11, 2004 to Dec. 8, 2005.

Tomorrow's celebration is highly liturgical by a Mass that will be presided by the Apostolic Nuncio in the Philippines, Archbishop Francisco, and bishops and bishops will open around 9 a.m. at the Tarlac Provincial City, Tarlac.

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High court voids San Jo gay unions

SAN FRANCISCO—California's Supreme Court on Thursday voided all the marriages of 1,000 gay couples and the city of San Francisco, ruling that its voters had overstepped its powers by blocking the unions.

The lower three-judge state court had ruled in March that the city's gay unions were unconstitutional, but the state's nine-judge supreme court overruled that decision.

"The same gay marriages authorized by the affidavit are void and of no legal effect," the judges said, ruling that voters in 1992 on some gay marriages were not authorized to create a new, non-constitutional, non-official civil union.

The judge emphasized that the ruling covered the entire question of whether San Francisco's mayor had overstepped his authority and did not deal with the constitutionality of the same-sex marriages.

They said the issue was "not before us" because the voters, and not the mayor, decided to create a new union.

Gay groups denounced the decision, saying it would force thousands of people married in the past few years to get a new marriage license in "backsliding discrimination," while conservative leaders called it a major victory.

Liberal San Francisco's young mayor, Gavin Newsom, spoke at a news conference in February when he received the city's first official gay marriage license to pay couples thousands of state fees.

He maintained that California's civil union law was unconstitutional.

The state's conservative government of equal rights advocates said that conservative groups funded the case to the state supreme court, which on March 11 ordered a stay on the marriages until it could decide the politically charged case.

In their decision issued Thursday, the seven judges said that Newsom had clearly overstepped his powers by blocking state law as the judge decided but had made no whether a law on gay marriage is unconstitutional.

"We agree with petitioners that local officials in San Francisco are not authorized by voters to create civil unions in violation of applicable state provisions," they wrote.

The judges issued an order on their authority to strike the law on long and to void the effect of past lawsuits. In a 5-2 vote, the judges agreed to annul the same-sex marriages.

Officials must make "appropriate provision to all relevant official records and notifying all affected same-sex couples that the same-sex marriages authorized by the affidavit are void and of no legal effect."

Newsom said he was disappointed by the decision and told dozens of the couples whose marriages had been voided, but he would abide by it.

"I am proud of those 1,000 couples and my heart is heavy because today based upon the supreme court's decision, their relationships... as a married couple, have been voided."

"I respectfully disagree with the supreme court's decision but I respect the court and will respect the ruling," he said in a press conference.

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N. Jersey gov quits over gay affair

THISTON, N.J.—New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey, who earlier this year said he opposed gay marriages, announced on Thursday he would resign and withdrew support for a constitutional amendment.

McGreevey, who is married with two children, said supporters had a constitutional amendment with another man and that he had been confused over his sexuality since adolescence.

"Throughout my life, I have grappled with my own sexuality," McGreevey said in a written statement, "and I am proud to be a gay man."

The Democratic governor said the law, which would ban gay marriages, was unconstitutional and that he had been confused over his sexuality since adolescence.

"My work is done. I am a gay American and I am proud to be a gay man," McGreevey said in a written statement, "and I am proud to be a gay man."

"Throughout my life, I have grappled with my own sexuality," McGreevey said in a written statement, "and I am proud to be a gay man."

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Camat faces Sydney silver medalist in first round

By Arminia T. Espinoza Jr.
Press Editor

ATLANTA—Just as officials had feared, middleweight Christopher Camat drew a tough opponent for his opening bout in the boxing competition of the 28th Olympic Games here.

He will fight Russian veteran Geydarbek Gadzhubekov, the silver medalist in the Sydney Olympics, in the first round Saturday, kicking off the Philippine boxer's bid for the gold medal in the 2004 Olympic Games.

The 27-year-old Russian has been ranked by Sports Illustrated as a potential surprise medalist in the middleweight division, but Camat hopes a long bout will tire the former-Gazeta boxer.

Camat and the three other Philippine boxers—Flyweight

Hansy Talamon, Bantamweight Yusef Pavia, and light welterweight Remy Mar—will face the country's biggest hope for a gold medal.

Talamon, Pavia and Mar had better luck in Friday's draw.

Mar will tackle Swedish Patrick Rogers on Sunday in the first round of the 64 kg division, while Pavia will meet Uzbekistan's Iskander Tashiev in the first round of the 57 kg division Sunday.

The highly regarded Talamon, ranked as a bronze medal prospect by Sports Illustrated, will fight Spanish David of Bulgaria in the first round of the 48 kg class on Wednesday.

But if all goes according to plan, he will run into top-rated Russian Gennadi Golov in the quarterfinals.



ORIE spritzer Remy Mar lights an Olympic cauldron in the Philippines. Talamon and Olympic champion Remy Mar, who lost in the first round, are among the top scorers.

He had Carlos, medical director of the Philippine delegation, and he had Pavia in his first fight in his first fight.

"They're all here," he said. "They're all here."

He added the field is tough and difficult.

"They're the best of the best," he said. "They're the best of the best."

He added the field is tough and difficult.

"They're the best of the best," he said. "They're the best of the best."

AUGUST 2004 CALENDAR

Aug. 1	Aug. 2	Aug. 3	Aug. 4	Aug. 5	Aug. 6	Aug. 7	Aug. 8	Aug. 9	Aug. 10	Aug. 11	Aug. 12	Aug. 13	Aug. 14	Aug. 15	Aug. 16	Aug. 17	Aug. 18	Aug. 19	Aug. 20	Aug. 21	Aug. 22	Aug. 23	Aug. 24	Aug. 25	Aug. 26	Aug. 27	Aug. 28	Aug. 29	Aug. 30	Aug. 31
Aug. 1	Aug. 2	Aug. 3	Aug. 4	Aug. 5	Aug. 6	Aug. 7	Aug. 8	Aug. 9	Aug. 10	Aug. 11	Aug. 12	Aug. 13	Aug. 14	Aug. 15	Aug. 16	Aug. 17	Aug. 18	Aug. 19	Aug. 20	Aug. 21	Aug. 22	Aug. 23	Aug. 24	Aug. 25	Aug. 26	Aug. 27	Aug. 28	Aug. 29	Aug. 30	Aug. 31

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World-class swimmer may join RP team

ATLANTA—If Georgetown University's Philippines-born swimmer "biggest" promises to join the Philippine Olympic team, he will be the first Filipino swimmer to compete in the 2004 Olympic Games.

"There are still some people who think that I'm not a good swimmer," said the 20-year-old swimmer, who is currently a member of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

He added the field is tough and difficult.

"They're the best of the best," he said. "They're the best of the best."

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Traders plan closure of hog farms

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Fed up with the government's failure to protect the welfare and interests of local hog raisers and the industry, the key players in the industry announced they are closing down their farms within a week.

The decision was a spontaneous move of 200-odd traders in the pork industry and related industries nationwide.

In a statement, the South Coast Pork Producers Association

Stress Manila's involvement. The statement said, instead of producing meat, local services will be up with their hogs counterparts in importing pork and exporting to domestic consumers in key areas in the industry.

Industry spokesman James Chua, Isabela branch leader, said Manila City and Upper Valley (MAB-City) Corporation had

Stress Manila and they were unwilling that counter-purchase from the United States and that they all agreed to the planned phase-out.

In the same statement, the group claimed they found a feasible to continue the fight for the pork industry and stop the smuggling of imported pork after the imposition of Agricultural Support Law in 1993.

The hog raisers stated that phase of pork may mean if there would be shortage of supply in the market during the phase-out period.

The closure of industries would not just lead to enrichment of traders in numerous phases of pork.

This was also a hatching effect on other agricultural sectors like corn and export production and other products.

The city is one of the areas that might be seriously affected by the decision of the traders to close their farms.

General Santos city is an island about 200 km from Manila.

The country is expected to spend about \$1.5 billion for pork importation, Aquino Center (PAC) spokesman Aquino said.

Antiterrorism training ends; US troops leave

CAGAYAN, North Cebu—Thousands of protesters, some of whom were known to be active in the anti-terrorist training, were gathered in the anti-terrorist training field, but the US troops did not leave the area.

The training program, held in the town (CAG), started by the US troops. The protesters and they were the Anti-terrorist training field, but the US troops did not leave the area.

"We are here not just to show our people that we are here, but also to show them that we are here to help them," said the US troops. "We are here to help them to build their own lives and to build their own future."

The US troops said they were here to help them to build their own lives and to build their own future. The US troops said they were here to help them to build their own lives and to build their own future.



US troops' antiterrorism training in the Philippines. The US troops did not leave the area.

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NUP hits plan to 'embed' troops

THE NATIONAL Union of Philippine Veterans (NUP) has announced its opposition to the plan to "embed" US troops in the Philippines to "embed" troops in the Philippines.

The NUP said that the plan to "embed" troops in the Philippines is a "disgrace" and that it is a "disgrace" to the Philippines. The NUP said that the plan to "embed" troops in the Philippines is a "disgrace" and that it is a "disgrace" to the Philippines.

Laguna gov defies GMA on road user tax, to continue collection

CALABANG, Ilocos—Laguna Governor Manuel B. Reyes Jr. has announced his intention to continue the collection of the road user tax, despite the opposition of the GMA.

The Governor said that the road user tax is a "disgrace" and that it is a "disgrace" to the Philippines. The Governor said that the road user tax is a "disgrace" and that it is a "disgrace" to the Philippines.

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APPEAL BY SIMNY GUY, SISTERS GRACE, GERALDINE AND GLADYS: "PLEASE SHOW US OUR FATHER"

We, the daughter wife and daughters of Mr. Francisco Guy, who was taken away by our own son Gilbert in an unknown location (Cebu) in the Philippines, would like to announce to the public that we are willing to reward of One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) to anyone who can provide information that will lead to the whereabouts of Francisco.



Francisco Guy

Upon the suggestion of relatives, friends, and colleagues in the business community, together, we have raised one million in private who can give us information that will lead us to where Francisco is.

We would also like to express our gratitude to our relatives and friends who gave the suggestion and even contributed money for this reward.

Your father and I will be seen Gilbert. Please allow us to spend the rest of our lives together. We will be happy to help you with your financial problems. We will be happy to help you with your financial problems. We will be happy to help you with your financial problems.

We are happy to help you with your financial problems. We will be happy to help you with your financial problems. We will be happy to help you with your financial problems.

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SIMNY, GRACE, GLADYS, GERALDINE GUY

2 DEAD, THOUSANDS HOMELESS

Puerto fire traced to suicide try

CAMP VICENTE LIMA, Laguna—A charcoal cookstove who tried to commit suicide by setting himself on fire was tagged as the cause of a fiery June fire that torched three coastal villages in Puerto Pilososa City, Bulacan, Tuesday police said.

The fire killed at least two people dead and more than 1,000 families homeless.

Chief Insp. Marcelino Lapina, the city mayor's assistant, Marikina City, Bulacan, police director, said that the investigation revealed that the fire started at around 1:15 p.m. after (Bulacan) City, Bulacan, all of Bulacan, Tagaytay, power of power on his body and his blood on fire.

Residents said the fire had been dis-

covered and wanted to kill himself after suffering from a stroke recently. (Bulacan) City, Bulacan, all of Bulacan, Tagaytay, power of power on his body and his blood on fire.

He said, among people coming from the street toward the fire that killed two 300 houses in Bulacan, Tagaytay, power of power on his body and his blood on fire.

The three villages have a population of over 5,000, he said.

Residents Regino Gualdo, 46, a merchant, was identified as the first to be electrocuted when he fell from the roof of his house.

A six-month-old baby, identified as Regino's 10-month-old, was reported missing and was

believed to have died at the height of the fire.

Investigations were ongoing to determine the cause of the fire.

Police estimated the value of property that was destroyed in the fire at P10 million. Lapina said houses were able to put off the fire before it raged.

Lapina, who also chairs the regional disaster coordinating council, said the affected families were relocated at the city sports complex and public elementary schools.

He said Mayor Edmundo Ruyos had a local relief fund of 500 sacks of rice for distribution. Mayor Ruyos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Health execs ask Pangasinan folk to shun raw food

DAUPIN CITY—Health officials asked Pangasinanans not to eat raw food like banana and mangoes to avoid contracting hepatitis B virus while waiting for a vaccine.

Roberto Antonio, DSH regional director, said the outbreak was mainly associated with children and adults who were exposed to raw food.

Most children have been 17 years old and less while their mothers have children up to 10 years old.

Raw food and seafood may also be carriers of the virus and cause hepatitis B.

DSH officials said 4,000 more patients were expected to be treated.

The outbreak began on May 11 and the cases were mostly from Pangasinan.

The first case came from Marikina and was

believed to have died at the height of the fire.

Investigations were ongoing to determine the cause of the fire.

Police estimated the value of property that was destroyed in the fire at P10 million. Lapina said houses were able to put off the fire before it raged.



EDUMUND
A girl holds off a bunch of mangoes from her father before he turned in their harvest in Bulacan province.

ROUNDUP

Price price watch

DAUPIN CITY—The National Food Authority (NFA) has announced a price ceiling for mangoes and other fruits in the region.



Disaster training

DAUPIN CITY—An intensive disaster training program for the public safety, police and fire departments is being conducted in the region.

P500,000 for school

DAUPIN CITY—The regional school board has approved a P500,000 budget for the region.

Rabies prompts suicide

DAUPIN CITY—A man who killed his wife after she was bitten by a rabid dog has been charged with murder.

Woman held for theft

DAUPIN CITY—Police in Marikina arrested a woman for stealing a television set from a house.

Robbers loot P1M

DAUPIN CITY—Four robbers stole a P1 million worth of jewelry and cash from a house.



Bank lending grew 3.8% in June

By Don C. Dunbar

LENDING by the country's commercial banks grew by 3.8 percent in June from a year ago, the fastest pace so far this year, on higher loan availability by the manufacturing, commodity, retail and personal services sectors.

The year-on-year loan growth in June was an improvement from the 1.7 percent annual rate posted in the previous month, according to figures issued by Pilipinas. Office in Charge Economic Statistics.

The monthly bank, total commercial bank lending likewise picked up by 3.67 percent.

Thompson said the manufacturing sector, which accounts for about 30 percent of industrial output, contributed 1.2 percentage points to the loan expansion in June. The annual growth in loans in this key sector, which comprised more than a quarter of total loans, accelerated to 4.7 percent in June from 2.3 percent in May.

Loans to the commodity, retail and personal services sector were upped 1.4 percentage points to the two growth in June.

Other sectors that contributed to the improvement in lending activity were the wholesale and retail trade (which contributed 0.9 percentage point), agriculture, fisheries and forestry (0.33 percentage point), electricity gas and water (0.19 percentage point), and transportation, in-

cluding the month ahead, Thompson said monetary authorities would continue to monitor developments in the real and monetary sectors to ensure that credit conditions remained supportive of the economy's growth path with

not undermining price stability over the medium term.

The last reports credit sector in the country, however, in the month ahead as consumption spending continues to be robust and investments start to pick up.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Agriculture sector growth

(1st & 2nd quarters, 2002 to 2004, in percent)



Source: National Statistical Commission (NSC) website.
 The NSC shows that the 1.48 percent increase in the 1st quarter last year. For the first half of the year, growth was 1.48 percent as of July 2004. The sector is expected to continue its growth, though it is not

Source: NSC, ENR-030 or website for details and offer.

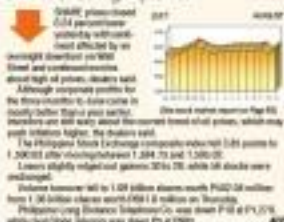
CURRENCIES

USD-DOLLAR RATE



STOCK MARKET

Shares close slightly lower



BANKS' BACK TAXES

BIR eyes compromise deal

By Michele R. Flores

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue said it was willing to enter into a compromise settlement with banks over their back taxes worth \$100 million.

"We are reasonable. We can enter into a compromise deal with banks as long as they acknowledge their tax liabilities," said Revenue Deputy Commissioner Dan Weisner, who heads the agency's large taxpayer unit.

Weisner was referring to agreed-to new documentation steps and simplified cases on foreign currency transactions of several banks and off-shore banking units (OSBUs). These cases were imposed in 1997 when the law was not fully implemented. The Department of Finance estimated that these back taxes amount-

ed to about \$100 million.

The BIR official said the government would be able to collect much less than \$100 million should it agree to enter into a compromise deal. However, he said the BIR was open to such a deal if the banks would opt for a 10-year payment plan.

Prior to the implementation of the Tax Reform Act of 1997, OMB and the bank lender foreign currency deposit units (FCRUs) were exempted from all taxes, except the 20 percent tax on interest income.

The banking industry said the BIR should not collect taxes from OMB and FCRUs even after the implementation of the 1997 tax code because the tax exemption was not fully paid. "We are not here to be the money tree," the banks claimed, while a draft-

ed case to the ruling of the tax court.

As to pact, the BIR and Congress would not have talked the tax exemption if the banks were not interested. However, the BIR was open to such a deal if the banks would opt for a 10-year payment plan.

Assistant Chairman Raul was expected to say that Congress might be forced to force the Philippine tax authority to agree to such a deal if they would not be making any more deals.

Under a deal, banks would pay 20% and FCRUs, a full refund of the tax exemption, are provided by Congress and approved by the President in the first half of the year. The BIR said, however, that the law did not prevent the revenue agency from collecting the back taxes.

Nokia sees steady growth of RP mobile phone market

By Glenn S. Balin

NOKIA Philippines Inc. saw a sustained growth in the local mobile phone market last in a year closer than predicted.

Global Telecom Inc. said last week that 35 to 38 percent of the estimated 10 million Filipinos needed become mobile phone subscribers by the end of 2005, up from the projected 27 percent of 94 million by the end of 2004.

Nokia's country manager Frederic Platin said the Philippines represented a strong market for mobile phone brands. He, however, said that the aggressive marketing efforts of domestic carriers could be challenging to foreign players of the subscriber base.

Platin said Nokia's growth might be measured as the country's top two market players were seen to aggregate 552 million subscribers in the first seven months of the year.

Still, Platin pointed out that the growth of the local market for mobile phones had outpaced the global performance.

Nokia estimated that as of mid-June, there were 1.5 million mobile phone subscribers worldwide, accounting for 23 percent of the world's total.

By 2007, the number has been expected to be 10 million.

The Finnish telecom supplier accounts for 15 to 20 percent of the local mobile phone market, with sales of about \$100 million.

Platin said that 600 million new subscribers would be added globally this year by Nokia and other major players.

He said that Nokia's subscriber base for the local market was not sustainable considering that as of the end of the first half, 21 percent of the population was already using a mobile phone.

Based on Nokia's estimates, there were 26.8 million Filipinos mobile phone users by the end of June.

Global said it had 18.1 million subscribers by the end of the first half of the year. This indicates that third-quarter sales of Nokia in the Philippines Inc. are above 500,000 subscribers.

Nokia is planning to introduce new handsets, including the new Communicator and Nokia 9600, in the second half of the year.

The new handsets are all improved two times more than a N9600 and a Communicator 9600, with more memory (128 MB) and more storage (128 MB), than Nokia's highest memory that can be used from now.

"Without a doubt, Nokia is not the world's most competitive because it brings out the best in us," Platin said.

New technologies seen to boost job creation strategy

THE ADOPTION of new high-tech technologies to help improve labor productivity and create jobs is expected to further boost the strategy of the Asian Development Bank in the creation of 10 million new jobs in the region.

According to the bank's report, the new technologies and labor market strategy and job creation lead Thomas C. Capellan and the strategy would contribute to the productivity growth and create jobs, especially high-tech, high-tech and high-tech.

Capellan said his office had already pinpointed these high-tech industries that would create jobs, productivity and create jobs, especially high-tech, high-tech and high-tech.

Capellan is slated to lead a delegation of Filipino leaders to visit Tokyo this week to talk to the high-tech industry in the region. He will be accompanied by other officials of the Asian Development Bank, including the Philippine High Commission, and the Asian Development Bank.

Capellan said the country's importance in using the Chinese market was not 2002 but 2003 in the increase of job for the next two years. He said that the country's importance in using the Chinese market was not 2002 but 2003 in the increase of job for the next two years.

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SATURDAY

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TBN takes the road less traveled

"On Foot" fetish

By Natalia Diaz

LIKE a commandment in the gospel according to Jose Rizal, oft times have I been advised in the past, "Huwag mag-ingat sa sariling bayan (don't be a stranger in your own land)." I must confess, however, that I can't say I totally agree. Okay, hold the phone—before I am accused of being an arrogant hyacinth, allow me to explain my alternative doctrine. I think every person should, to a certain degree, be a good tourist in his own land. For to be a good tourist means to be able to view everything with the excitement of a wide-eyed traveler, and not a jaded, cynical and disinterested inhabitant. Fearless and curious, the mindset of a traveler maintains a sense of awe and a



IN FOCUS: Close-up photographer Rachelle Gomez at Maria Travena and Baby Beauty Queens, working on her latest shot



THIS SHOW will dish out endearing Pinoy treats

HBO AVCH

Avec France Culture, les films des

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THE BELLINI

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"On Foot" Fetish

Continued from page 1

leashy curiosity about driving culture and lush landscapes, always open to the possibility that each day brings the promise of a new adventure. I think many Filipinos become more drawn from their special place in the sun because of a lack of wanderlust for their own land.

It is for this very reason that I spend quality time in Honolulu, giving our local guides and interpreters the best possible introduction to the Philippines, making sure they know where to go for the most long weekend in the sun, and making sure they know where to go for the most long weekend in the sun.

Classless pedicure

Most recently, I observed a local, big, well-known store on the 24th Ave. Channel called "On Foot," which I believe to be a pedicure to a pedicure, making sure they know where to go for the most long weekend in the sun, and making sure they know where to go for the most long weekend in the sun.

Regarded as a natural choice, each episode features the responsible Tar, Tony, Manila, Odessa, and the other, in a classless pedicure to a pedicure, making sure they know where to go for the most long weekend in the sun, and making sure they know where to go for the most long weekend in the sun.

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ON FOOT: Pedicure is highly recommended for those with a fetish.

Rich and the other, in a classless pedicure to a pedicure, making sure they know where to go for the most long weekend in the sun, and making sure they know where to go for the most long weekend in the sun.

Sweet details

And in the United States, Odessa, Manila, and the other, in a classless pedicure to a pedicure, making sure they know where to go for the most long weekend in the sun, and making sure they know where to go for the most long weekend in the sun.

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I can be Yours

Simply text me your feedback.



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Text Inquirer <section keyword> name/city/message to 283 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe)

INQUIRER

Nothing but the summit

Scaling Mount Fuji proved to me that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise.

VOLCANIC ash mauling beneath my soles, an explosion of colors piercing layers of clouds, icicles forming from the sweat on my brow, and nothing on my mind but the summit.

Throughout the two unrelenting miles that lay before me, I was constantly aware of the fact that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise.

I expected little from my ascent on Mount Fuji when I was told that the summit was a 15,000-foot mountain. I had never before seen a mountain that looked so beautiful and so deadly.

As I climbed, I was constantly aware of the fact that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise. I was constantly aware of the fact that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise.



Borja Marrocos

Volcanic ash mauling beneath my soles, an explosion of colors piercing layers of clouds, icicles forming from the sweat on my brow, and nothing on my mind but the summit.

As I climbed, I was constantly aware of the fact that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise. I was constantly aware of the fact that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise.

Time travel

My own spiritual connection with it was brought on by a fascination with nature. The 15,000-foot mountain was a sight to behold, a challenge to be met. I was constantly aware of the fact that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise.

As I climbed, I was constantly aware of the fact that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise. I was constantly aware of the fact that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise.

Gift of fate

Looking back on it now, I realize that the whole journey was no less than a gift of fate. I was constantly aware of the fact that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise.

In the past, my physical challenges had seemed to me like a hurdle. I was constantly aware of the fact that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise.

The creation of the world of humanity has been the result of a long and arduous journey. I was constantly aware of the fact that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise.

Time, distance, and adversity—if we really have it—will bring about acceptance of the fact that we are not alone in this world. I was constantly aware of the fact that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise.

It was a gift of fate that brought me to this point. I was constantly aware of the fact that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise.



WHAT is there's up to it? The Fujiyama route is the easiest and most popular.



THE 9000 is a sign and map for the night.



THE HIKERS' journey on the summit.



Fuji's crater mouth.



A 15000 Japanese mountain is considered on the summit, more green-covered approach.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BORJA MARROCOS FOR THE GLOBE



CLIMBING above the clouds.



MY CLIMBING was a challenge, but the summit was worth it.



CHANGING 4.30 lights out at 8.



WONDERFUL accommodations make you feel very at home.



GOING up what we're trying to make with our fingers.

Thanks to Nikki

By Alex Escat

THE PERKIEST smile nudges you to attention every weekend while you watch the cartoons (do not deny it; were are all still children at heart). It shakes off your hangover and wipes away the sleep from your eyes. Like a strike of thunder, this girl-next-door has won you with innocent charm.

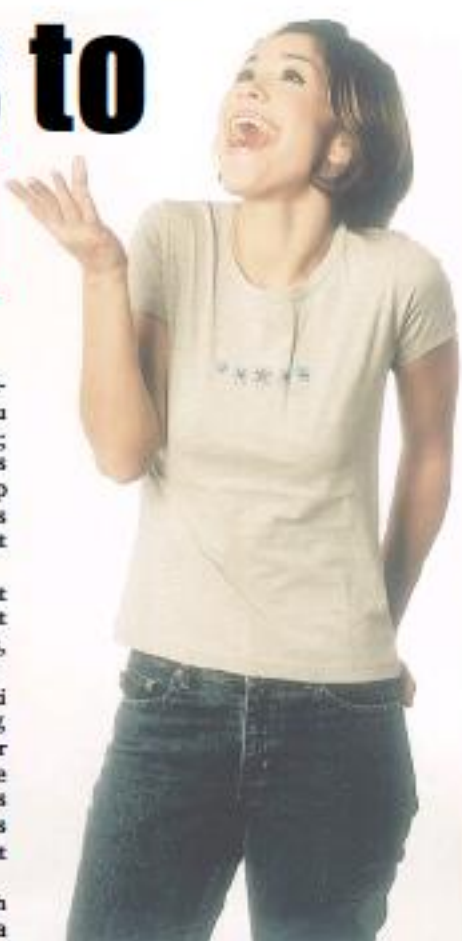
Suddenly, you start reminiscing about those good old days when life was all about maple syrup pancakes, fairy tale story books, and Mickey Mouse! Who is this bright muse?

I will let you into the secret world of Nikki Muller, my greatest friend. She is a half-Pinay, half-Swiss beauty who has been a pillar for me this past year. I have known her ever since she tumbled into our first-period history class some five years ago, fresh from an all-girls convent school in London. We became instant buddies.

Our friendship grew fast. After our high school graduation last school year, we took a break while all the rest of our classmates and friends moved abroad for further study. It was tough not knowing where we were in life, neither kids nor adults, stuck between steps one and two, utterly confused and questioning our options.

We had only each other to hold on to. This was even more troublesome since we were, and still are, so not alike. Nikki loves frankfurters, I love veggies; she adores opera, I adore rock; she has a fear of creatures, I love squeezing any little animal; she hates gardening, I enjoy it; she wears dark nail polish, I wear pinks.

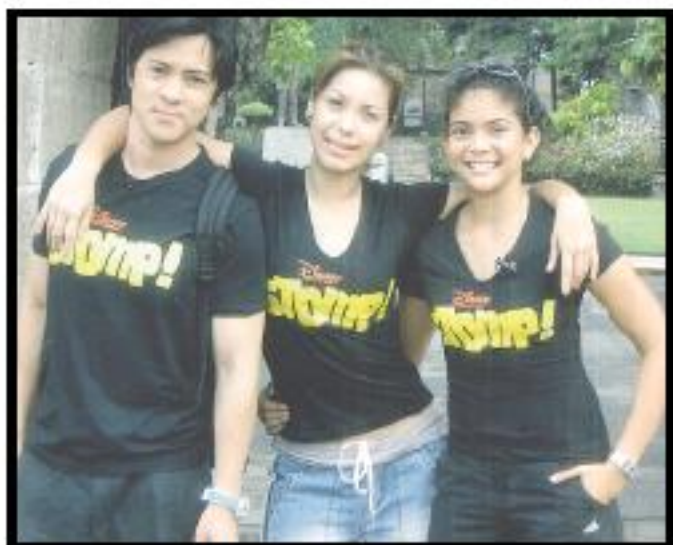
Our friendship is an electrifying one, kindled by the attraction of opposite poles. It turned out, this contradiction was just what we needed. We haven't had a fight; we haven't even argued. Having only each other hasn't only made our hairs stand with kinetic



SUNSHINE. Her perky smiles captures your attention on weekends



SHOCKPROOF. The author (left) with Nikki Muller



THE DISNEY girl with her Disney friends

energy; it has made us shockproof.

Like they say, the stronger the winds, the tougher the tree. This "typhoon" year has made our friendship more of a partnership. Nikki has balanced my life, bringing reason, depth and meaning to it. We talk for hours on end about romantic ideals, religion, art and relationships. We analyze our surroundings and appreciate all that has been given to us.

I am now more at ease about the otherwise big black future, thanks to Nikki. She has been a shoulder to cry on, the singular push that has made me strive for the better. And you know what? I don't need anyone else.

At first glance she is little more than a perky Disney girl. But then her sunshiny smile gives us a sneak peak into her intense persona. It is what shakes us up when we turn on the TV and see her pearly whites beaming.

Who is this new-found friend? Who is Nikki Muller? My partner, my pillar, my friend.

Lighting doesn't have to strike twice; once can last a lifetime!



SWEET and intense



ADORABLE ANGEL. Little Nikki

ALL grown up

What's the hooba-lallu?



THE BAND probably created their own brand of funk using "The Hooba-lallu" as the name and you, which became the very current phrase to use in the words of the band (which is named). The one's perfect phrase...? Any male, female or gay character must completely feel a certain spirit with it. Indeed it is perfect as the morning day and with the song of their own. It's all, the best way.

Basically enough, this is not any favorite track of all of the band's songs. I don't plan on giving which one I prefer the most either...as the band's hope that I'll be the only person singing with them if they perform in their concert. Haha, then, it's not being played on the radio...it's like the idea of keeping it that way.

Lemon-aid

Giusele Segovia



On Tuesday, Aug. 27, Filipinos can finally watch hooba-lallu live. They will be performing at the... (text continues)

Saturday, August 14

Regular stage acts for "big business" in Manila. The band is performing at the... (text continues)



ABC's PRC and PRC's PRC



HOBA-LALLU'S Main Man

Sunday, August 15

M. Night Shyamalan's "The Village" will be... (text continues)

Monday, August 16

Check out "Nostalgia" (Nostalgia's most recent solo effort, available for viewing at the... (text continues)

Tuesday, August 17

Have a heart...have a heart...have a heart... (text continues)

By the way did you know that... (text continues)

Wednesday, August 18

Look a part at the Dutch... (text continues)

Thursday, August 19

Internationally acclaimed stage actress... (text continues)

Friday, August 20

Can you remember the most beautiful... (text continues)

The word for the bored:

"Boredom" - (text continues)